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this loss is, as we have seen, one of the influences which make him recalcitrant to anal training. Moreover, every boy experiences actual erection of the penis at some time or other in early infancy and the first years of childhood. In erection it seems to the boy that he possesses a larger, more solid, upstanding organ. But this does not last—it is followed by flaccidity, when the organ appears very small, shrunken and soft. The child knows nothing of the physiology or mechanics of this phenomenon; he knows that sometimes he has what appears to him a large and effective penis, and sometimes he has not, and he has no guarantee that the desired condition will come back again when he wishes it. The dread of impotence is one form of the dread of castration : the impotent penis is as if not there at all.

Probably more important than these factors, however, are the child's own aggressive impulses in the biting phase of oral sexuality, when he actually has to bite off and eat up objects that seem good to him and are a source of pleasure, when he actually wishes, moreover, to bite off the breast—whether because he loves and wants to possess it inside himself, or because he is angry that it does not come to him, and wishes to attack it and spoil it in anger. I have already shown how the impulses of the oral situation link on to those of the genital, and there is no doubt that the boy's wish to bite off the mother's nipple is a very significant contributory element to his dread that his own penis will be cut off, that is, bitten off, either by his mother or rivals.¹

¹ In an important paper recently published, M. N. Searl has suggested that the ultimate source of the dread of loss of pleasure, that is, psychic death, which finds a specific expression in the dread of loss of the genital, is to be found in the child's experience of actual exhaustion after a fit of screaming, in early infancy. Miss Searl looks upon

the screaming
 fit—the scream of rage, when the child cannot get
 satisfaction for his
 instinctual desires of hunger or love—as the first *real*
 attack of the
 child upon his real parents. But this at the same time
 attacks the
 child himself, rasping his throat, choking him and
 bringing a general
 feeling of pain and misery. If carried to the point of
 exhaustion, when
 the screaming does not effect any satisfaction of wishes,
 it leads to a
 state of very extensive loss of capacity for pleasure ;
 and this is the
 primary and most generalised form of castration dread.
 It is probably
 this situation which first leads the child to feel, " If I
 attack other people,
 I shall be attacked in return," since he actually
 experiences an attack
 on his own throat and chest and body, which he
 attributes to those
 whom he wished to attack. ("The Psychology of
 Screaming,"
 M. N. Searl, J. /. of *Psycho-Analysis*, XIV, Pt. i. A
 further paper on
 " Play, Aggression and Reality " is to appear in the
 same journal
 shortly.)